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Statement submitted by International Young Professionals Foundation, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* The present statement is issued without formal editing.

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Statement

This is a crucial momentum when, around the world, social disparities have become aggravated, hitting adversely the most vulnerable. Eradicating poverty within the context of the UN SDGs requires a multiplicity of strategies that have to be coherently planned and devised in order to achieve a comprehensive sustainable impact.

To effectively fight poverty, the scope of impoverishment has to be measured. Initial data about those that experience poverty, the reasons for this and the consequences have to be collected and shared among all stakeholders. Governments shall set the infrastructure for poverty data exchange at all stages of the eradication process: at the inception stage as well as at regular stages throughout the eradication process. Interim findings about progress in poverty eradication should be well communicated among governments, and throughout networks of relevant poverty stakeholders.

In accordance with new data strategies, collection has to be adjusted to make an adequate timely response to the changed needs. Data collection, analysis and exchange should be a critical process in which all involved stakeholders eagerly cooperate with each other and think out of the box to come up with solutions that pragmatically affect the lives of the poor and empower them for sustainable development. The approach should penetrate deeper, below the surface of formal, quantitative data, and also take into consideration even the non-statistical inputs of CSOs and media, as well as testimonials of victims of impoverishment. Devising a holistic measurement approach requires considering the devastating impact of impoverishment and the gratifying interim results in eradicating it. Success stories and best exemplars in eradication of poverty should be exchanged, but also case studies of failure of the eradication efforts have to be given enough space and be discussed openly and constructively.

Although governments are vested with the primary responsibility in the fight against poverty, achieving better living and social standards for all is not only the job of public state or sub-state actors. Governments should establish the conditions and facilities for a cross-sector, multi-actor dialogue and action to happen: while the governments would bring together the corporate sector and their representative organizations, CSOs, informal civil society groups, media and all stakeholders, after the initial stage there should be mechanisms for those actors to engage together in communication and cooperation even without a push from the governments. The multi-actor strategy should include clear roles for all stakeholders, procedures for checks and controls, joint decision-making and monitoring measures. It should be inclusive, widely open to all stakeholders, but also expect tangible results of their involvement in the process. Each communication or action measure in the multi-actor strategy should be accompanied by measurable indicators for its progress tracking and an opportunity to involve even more stakeholders ad hoc while the struggle against poverty has already commenced.

Fiscal restrictions of governments prevent them from efficiently addressing the issue of poverty. State taxes should not be the single source of funding poverty eradication or supporting the victims. The primary role of the governments would be to coordinate the efforts of effectively responding to needs in the society and directing the resources of all actors in the cross-sectorial approach to those that are most needy and suffering from poverty. Governments should create mechanisms for crowdsourcing, bringing together in-kind contribution by companies, CSOs, informal groups of the citizenry as well as individual citizens. It is important that the community receives help not only in the form of funding, but those crowdsourcing

campaigns should also be collecting supplies and materials of immediate need for the impoverished ones, for instance, to enable their feeding and shelter. Meeting the cultural and educational needs of the victims of poverty should be also a part of the crowdsourcing multi-stakeholder approach that would eventually empower the needy ones to take their future in their hands and plan a sustainable living in which they autonomously earn and contribute back to the community. To that respect, the government has to be an interlocutor and should not be seen by anyone as the actor to pay the bill, rather crowdsourcing efforts in poverty eradication should be coordinated with the government to achieve a sustainable impact on everyone's development.